

HR 9013

2005

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution congratulating the owners and operators of
3 the Columbia Restaurant on the occasion of its 100th
4 anniversary.

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6 WHEREAS, the Columbia Restaurant was founded in 1905 with
7 its flagship in Tampa's Historic Ybor City and has grown to
8 include five additional facilities, and

9 WHEREAS, the restaurant was founded by Cuban immigrant
10 Casimiro Hernandez, Sr., and has been owned and operated
11 throughout the ensuing century by the next four generations of
12 the family - including his son, Casimiro, Jr.; his granddaughter
13 and her husband, Adela and Cesar Gonzmart; and, now, his great
14 grandchildren, Casey and Richard Gonzmart, and his great-great
15 grandchildren, Lauren and Andrea Gonzmart - making the Columbia
16 Restaurant a fifth-generation, family-owned and operated
17 business, with additional members of the fifth generation being
18 trained as prospective leaders and a sixth generation of hope
19 and promise recently begun, and

20 WHEREAS, the family persevered in keeping the restaurant
21 open throughout the years, including during periods of decline
22 in Ybor City, by bringing in world-class entertainment to
23 attract customers, a tradition continuing today with renowned
24 flamenco dancers, and

25 WHEREAS, after the flagship restaurant underwent \$6.5
26 million in renovations in anticipation of its centennial
27 celebration, the Columbia Restaurant in Ybor City now
28 encompasses an entire city block of 52,000 square feet, and,
29 with 15 dining rooms, has enough seating for 1,700 people, NOW,

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30 | THEREFORE,

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32 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
33 | Florida:

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35 | That the Gonzmart Family is recognized on the celebration
36 | of the 100th birthday of the Columbia Restaurant, the oldest
37 | restaurant in Florida, the largest Spanish restaurant in the
38 | world, and the economic heartbeat of Ybor City.

39 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
40 | presented to the Gonzmart Family as a tangible token of the
41 | sentiments expressed herein.